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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,101	08/01/2001	Jurgen Zielbauer	W&B-INF-748	4850
24131	7590	09/01/2005	EXAMINER	
LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA P O BOX 2480 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			NGUYEN, BRIAN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2661	

DATE MAILED: 09/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,101

Applicant(s)

ZIELBAUER, JURGEN

Examiner

Brian D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/4/02 and 5/20/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-8, 13, and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 1, line 1, it is suggested to replace "configuration" with --system-- because the term: "configuration" is not positively recited limitation.

Claims 2-8, 13, and 15, it is suggested to replace "configuration" with --system--.

Claim 4, line 5, it is suggested to delete "said" before "controllable delay device". In line 7, delete "the" before --connected". In lines 7-8, replace "the respective said delay device" with -the respectively associated controllable delay device--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 14, the phrase "for example" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartz (5,379,299).

Regarding claim 1, Schwartz discloses a configuration (see figure 4) for calibrating an interface, with a plurality of parallel transfer channels for transmission of a number of parallel data signals and, optionally, command signals between associated outer connections and associated circuit nodes in an electronic assembly, and with at least one synchronization signal connection for a synchronization signal determining a time base for the parallel-transmitted signals, comprising: individually controllable delay devices (12, 12') respectively contained in selected transfer channels for setting a time delay for the signal transmission in the respective transfer channel as a function a delay control signal (signal from element 18); a control device (16 and 18) connected in the interface and including a sensing means (phase detector) for sensing, in each selected transfer channel (from sources 1-N), an actual value of a relative phase of the respective data signal (data transmission from data source) with respect to an associated, accompanying synchronization signal (see strobe signal in figure 2), and means for producing the delay control signal (see control lines 20 and 22) in dependence on a respectively sensed actual value for controlling each of the delay devices in order to match the actual value to a predetermined, common setpoint value.

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Regarding claim 2, Schwartz discloses each the controllable delay device is formed by a variable delay element (programmable delay element 12), inserted into a signal path carrying the signal to be transmitted, of the respective transfer channel.

Regarding claim 4, Schwartz discloses the configuration comprises a separate phase detector (16, 16') contained in each selected transfer channel, the phase detectors each having a signal input connected for receiving the signal delayed by a respectively associated controllable delay device (see, for example, figure 1), a reference input connected for receiving the associated synchronization signal (see strobe signal 30 in figure 2), and an output connected to a delay control input of the respective delay device and carrying a sense signal indicating a magnitude and a direction of a time shift between flanks of the input signals present at the two inputs (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Schwartz discloses the selected transfer channels are transfer channels transmitting received signals from the outer connections to the assembly (see data sources 1-N).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Thacker (5,313,501).

Regarding claim 3, Schwartz does not specifically disclose the use of a latch circuit.

However, using of a latch circuit to hold data is well known in the art. Thacker discloses the use of a latch circuit (see, for example. Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the latch circuit as taught by Thacker in the system of Schwartz in order to meet the design criteria of a particular implementation.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Yang et al (6,418,537).

Regarding claim 6, Schwartz does not specifically disclose transfer channels from the assembly to the outer connections. However, bi-directional communication is well known in the art. Yang discloses two-way communication (see XMTR and RCVR in figure 1a). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide transfer channel from the assembly to the outer connections as taught by Yang in the system of Schwartz so that the assembly can transmit request or response to the outer connections.

9. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Keeth et al (6,889,357).

Regarding claims 9-14, Schwartz does not specifically disclose temporarily switching on the control device prior to a start of a user operation or in pauses during user operation or the use of pseudo random sequence of binary values as the pattern signal. However, calibrating the system during the startup or pauses and the use of pseudo-random sequence are well known in the art. Keeth discloses these limitations (see col. 1, lines 33-51). Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to calibrate the system as taught by Keeth in the system of Schwartz to, for example, compensate for wide variations in individual device parameters.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 7-8 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

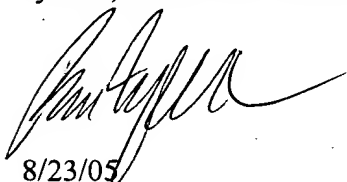
Saito et al (6,202,168) and Sessions (6,606,576).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



8/23/05

BRIAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER